

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MINUTES

September 30, 2003

Supervisors in Attendance:

Mr. J. L. McHale, III, Vice Chrm.
Mrs. Renny B. Humphrey
Mr. Kelly Miller

Mr. Lane B. Ramsey
County Administrator

School Board Member in Attendance:

Ms. Elizabeth Davis, Chairman

Special Guests:

Delegate Fenton Bland
Delegate Sam Nixon

Staff in Attendance:

Colonel Carl R. Baker,
Police Department
Ms. Janice Blakley, CMC
Dep. Clerk to Board
Ms. Marilyn Cole, Asst.
County Administrator
Dr. Billy Cannaday, Jr.,
Supt., School Board
Ms. Mary Ann Curtin, Dir.,
Intergovtl. Relations
Dep. Chief Frank Edwards,
Fire Department
Mr. Bradford S. Hammer,
Deputy Co. Admin.,
Human Services
Mr. Donald Kappel, Dir.,
Public Affairs
Mr. Steven L. Micas,
County Attorney
Dr. William Nelson,
Dir., Health Dept.
Mr. Francis Pitaro, Dir.,
General Services
Ms. Sarah Snead, Dir.,
Social Services
Mr. James J. L. Stegmaier,
Deputy Co. Admin.,
Management Services
Mr. M. D. Stith, Jr.,
Deputy Co. Admin.,
Community Development

Mr. McHale welcomed citizens and special guests to the special meeting regarding disaster relief efforts. He recognized Delegate Sam Nixon and Ms. Elizabeth Davis who were present at the meeting.

Mr. Miller introduced Mr. Ramsey, Dr. Cannaday, and representatives from FEMA, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, Dominion Virginia Power, Verizon, Rutherford Assurance, the Virginia Department of Transportation, and the Small Business Administration who were present to assist citizens with disaster relief concerns.

Mr. Ramsey provided an overview of the county's response to disaster relief.

Dr. Cannaday summarized issues the schools are dealing with as a result of Hurricane Isabel and actions being taken to address the issues.

Mr. Curt Nellis, Regional Coordinator of the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, provided details of the state's disaster relief efforts. He stated FEMA representatives are also available to answer questions from citizens.

Mr. Ken Barker, Vice President of Customer Planning, Dominion Virginia Power, summarized Dominion's efforts to restore electricity to area residents.

Mr. Ramsey recognized Ms. Lynda Price, Emergency Management Coordinator, and members of the county's Emergency Operations Center who were present at the meeting, and expressed appreciation for their many hours of dedicated service throughout the hurricane event. He also recognized members of the state's Emergency Operations Center and expressed appreciation for their efforts in quickly addressing the power outage at Richmond's water treatment plant.

Mr. McHale recognized a representative from the State Corporation Commission Bureau of Insurance who was available to answer questions from citizens. He also recognized Delegate Fenton Bland who was present at the meeting.

Approximately 25 citizens expressed concerns regarding various issues, including better communication relative to water usage, availability of ice and water, and other issues; the need for better planning for disasters by Dominion Virginia Power; placing a curfew on residents at the onset of a disaster; turnaround time for FEMA assistance; the possibility of requiring underground utility lines; restoration of power to entire neighborhoods simultaneously rather than just one grid at a time; prorating of utility bills; availability of private workers to provide debris removal services to citizens; and adding nursing homes to Dominion Virginia Power's priority list for power restoration.

Mr. McHale expressed appreciation to the various representatives who were present to answer questions from citizens. He stated he is very proud of the county's response to the disaster. He further stated county staff prepared hundreds of news releases during the event and expressed concerns about the necessity for more effective communication between the county and the media during power outages to provide citizens with important information. He stated emergency preparedness might be a good topic for the Committee on the Future to study.

Mrs. Humphrey expressed appreciation to the county's firemen and policemen for the extraordinary assistance they provided checking on residents, delivering services and responding to emergencies during the event, and stated she is grateful that hurricane-related injuries were minimal.

Mr. Miller expressed appreciation to all county employees who served the citizens well during the disaster.

A moment of silence was observed for the people who are suffering as a result of the hurricane and for those who were injured or lost loved ones during the disaster.

Lane B. Ramsey
County Administrator

Arthur S. Warren
Chairman